



BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

BOSTON FIELD DIVISION
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BOSTON PD FINDS THAT MANY CASINGS + 1 NIBIN = 15 LEADS

The Boston, Massachusetts, Police Department is aggressive in the use of advanced technology to combat illegal firearms and firearms violence. Departmental regulations require that all recovered evidence relating to firearms be submitted to the laboratory for entry into its NIBIN unit. The power of ballistic imaging technology, and Boston's thorough approach to its deployment, has enabled the department to find links undetectable by other means.

On September 9, 2000, in Boston, several subjects were apprehended and found to be in the possession of three handguns. (*The public possession of firearms is in itself a criminal offense in Boston.*) The subjects were arrested and charged with the possession offense; the three handguns—a .25 caliber, a .40 caliber and a 9 mm—were all seized as evidence, testfired, and entered into IBIS.

Correlation of the testfires returned several promising similarities. Examiners from the department's firearms laboratory viewed the correlation results and then examined the recalled evidence. The following 15 criminal offenses were positively connected to the testified weapons:

- On June 2, 1999, in Boston, shots were fired, but no victim was identified. Several 9 mm cartridge casings were recovered at the scene.
- On October 28, 1999, also in Boston, shots were fired, but no victim was identified. More 9 mm cartridge casings were recovered.
- On April 3, 2000, in Boston, one victim was wounded by gunfire. 9 mm cartridge casings were collected at the scene.
- Also on April 3, 2000, in Boston, shots were fired, but no victim was identified. 9 mm cartridge casings were recovered at the scene.
- On April 19, 2000, in Boston, one victim was wounded by gunfire. In the area, 9 mm cartridge casings were recovered.
- On April 23, 2000, in Boston, shots were fired, but no victim was identified. 9 mm cartridge casings were collected at the scene.

- On April 24, 2000, in Boston, shots were fired, but no victim was identified. 9 mm cartridge casings were recovered at the scene.
- On May 9, 2000, in Boston, shots were fired, but no victim was identified. 9 mm cartridge casings were recovered at the scene.
- On June 8, 2000, in Boston, four victims were shot. 9 mm cartridge casings were collected at the scene of this violent crime.
- On June 15, 2000, in Boston, a victim was assaulted with a firearm. 9 mm cartridge casings were recovered.
- Providence, Rhode Island, is located about one hour south of Boston by car. On June 19, 2000, Providence police responded to the scene of a shooting and found there a large amount of blood and several 9 mm cartridge casings, but no victim.
- On June 25, 2000, in the city of Brockton, about 25 minutes south of Boston, an assault with a firearm took place. The 9 mm casings recovered at this scene were transported to the Boston PD for entry into Boston's IBIS unit.
- On July 6, 2000, in the city of Randolph, just south of Boston, three victims were wounded in a shooting. 9 mm cartridge casings were recovered.
- On July 7, 2000, in Boston, shots were fired, but no victim was located. 9 mm cartridge evidence was collected at the scene.
- On July 20, 2000, in Boston, shots were fired, but no victim was located. Cartridge casings from a .40 caliber firearm were recovered.

A routine arrest for firearms possession charges resulted in the discovery of links among fifteen shooting incidents spread over several police jurisdictions in two states. As a result, each agency involved now has a wealth of information to use in its investigation, including the identities of the possessors of the guns. (*In all of the cases, investigation is ongoing.*) Without Boston's participation in NIBIN, these crimes would likely not have been linked.